# Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of University and School Lands August 29, 2019

The August 29, 2019 meeting of the Board of University and School Lands was called to order at 8:04 AM in the Governor's Conference Room of the State Capitol by Chairman Doug Burgum.

#### **Members Present:**

Doug Burgum Governor

Alvin A. Jaeger Secretary of State
Wayne Stenehjem Attorney General
Kelly Schmidt State Treasurer

Kirsten Baesler Superintendent of Public Instruction

# **Department of Trust Lands Personnel present:**

Jodi Smith Commissioner Kristie McCusker Paralegal

Kate Schirado Administrative Assistant

Michael Shackelford Investments Division Manager

Dennis Chua Investments Analyst

Allie Nagel Minerals Division Land Professional

Rick Owings Grants Administrator

Jeff Engleson Investments

#### **Guests in Attendance:**

Dave Garner Attorney General's Office

Reice Haase Governor's Office

Geoff Simon Western Dakota Energy Association Brady Pelton North Dakota Petroleum Council

Rob Forward DW Slate Marcia Beard RVK

Charles Tuttle

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the July 17, 2019 meeting was made by Secretary Al Jaeger and seconded by Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem and the motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

#### OPERATIONS

# Surface Land Management, Investments, and Minerals Management Administrative Rules

In House Bill 1300, the 65<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly directed the Board of University and School Lands (Board) no longer be exempt from the Administrative Agencies Practice Act (Act). In Senate Bill 2264, the 66<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly directed the Board of University and School Lands be exempt from the adjudicative proceeding requirements and procedures under North Dakota Century Code §§ 28-32-21 through 28-32-51 of the Act.

The Department of Trust Lands (Department) considered existing rules, together with policies and procedures, to incorporate necessary wording from those into rules which comply with the North Dakota Administrative Code. North Dakota Century Code § 28-32-07 states: "Any rule change, including a creation, amendment, or repeal, made to implement a statutory change must be adopted and filed with the legislative council within nine months of the effective date of the statutory change."

Revisions to rules concerning General Administration and rules for Surface Land Management, Investments, and Minerals Management are posted on the Department's website, publication of a notice of intent has been completed, and copies of these rules were sent to sponsoring legislators. A public hearing on these rules was scheduled for August 28, 2019. The Department will continue to receive comments until September 9, 2019.

## **Acreage Adjustment Survey**

Senate Bill 2211 of the Sixty-Sixth Legislative Assembly amended N.D.C.C. ch. 61-33.1 relating to the ownership of mineral rights of land subject to inundation by Pick-Sloan Missouri basin project dams. Under N.D.C.C. § 61-33.1-03(8), the Department executed a contract with Kadrmas, Lee & Jackson, Inc. "to analyze the final review findings and determine the acreage on a quarter-quarter basis or government lot basis above and below the ordinary high water mark as delineated by the final review findings of the industrial commission." The contract's scope of work concludes twelve months from the date of execution, at a total cost of \$1,088,635.

Acreage Adjustment Township Survey Status attachments were provided at the board meeting and are available upon request.

Adoption of Investments Director, Jeff Engleson Retirement Congratulations Resolution
After more than 33 years of employment with the Department of Trust Lands, Jeff Engleson is retiring as the Director of Investments.

# ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE AND IMPACT OFFICE

#### **Retirement of Grants**

Of the grants awarded during Fiscal Years 2017 through 2019, one is complete, and one has a remaining balance available for retirement as the grant holder is non-responsive. The list of recommended retirement of grants for the Board's consideration is as follows:

Political Sub	Grant	Awarded	Paid	Balance	Project	
CITY OF KENMARE	G170056	\$15,000.00	\$10,304.00	\$4,696.00	TRAINING	
WHITE SHIELD PSD					RENOVATION & IMPROVEMENT	
#85	G180062	\$29,510.00		\$29,510.00	PROJECTS	

White Shield PSD is a non-responsive grant holder per N.D. Admin. Code § 85-02-04-02, which states:

A grantee that does not respond to the director's notice is deemed to concur with the cancellation of the grant. The board may cancel the grant immediately and retire the remaining balance to the originating grant fund. If an extension of an aged grant is not granted, the board may cancel the grant immediately and retire the remaining balance to the originating grant fund.

Final notifications were sent to White Shield PSD on December 27, 2018, stating their grant was considered delinquent and to avoid retirement of funding, EIIO needed a written grant status response no later than January 21, 2019. Additionally, the grantee's legislators were included in the notification process.

White Shield Public School District PSD has failed to submit progress reports and to respond to repeated communications via emails, phone calls, and letters with the Energy Infrastructure and Impact Office (EIIO).

The City of Kenmare was awarded a grant in 2017 for training and equipment for their ambulance service in the amount of \$15,000. The City of Kenmare completed its projects and has a remaining balance that the grantee has authorized for retirement.

Motion: The Board retires the two grants identified in the preceding list for a total of \$34,206.00. Subsequently, the Board declares these funds within the Oil and Gas Impact Grant Fund as contingent for future unmet needs.

Action Record	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Absent
Secretary Jaeger			Х		
Superintendent Baesler			Х		
Treasurer Schmidt	Х		Х		
Attorney General Stenehjem		Х	Х		
Governor Burgum			Х		

#### INVESTMENTS

#### **Authority over Financial Assets – Board Resolution**

Historically when new investment personnel are hired, Northern Trust Company and other investment advisors have requested a Board resolution, or other formal documentation, identifying the individuals responsible for managing the Board's investment program. Recently the Department hired Michael Shackelford as the Investment Director and Dennis Chua as an Investment Analyst.

The following resolution is proposed for adoption:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michael Shackelford and Dennis Chua shall have authority to represent the Board in all activities involving the financial assets under the Board's control, as provided for in state law and in accordance with Board policy.

The individuals that will be authorized to give direction to advisors and custodians include Commissioner Jodi Smith, Investment Director Michael Shackelford, and Investment Analyst Dennis Chua. The Department complies with the North Dakota State's Office of Management and

Governor Burgum

Budget, Fiscal and Administrative Policy 216 – Internal Control and Fraudulent/Significant Dishonest Act.

Motion: The Board adopts the resolution that Michael Shackelford and Dennis Chua, the Investment Director and Investment Analyst, respectively, shall have authority to represent the Board in all activities involving the financial assets under the Board's control, as provided for in state law and in accordance with Board policy.

 Action Record
 Motion
 Second
 Aye
 Nay
 Absent

 Secretary Jaeger
 X
 X

 Superintendent Baesler
 X
 X

 Treasurer Schmidt
 X
 X

 Attorney General Stenehiem
 X
 X

X

# Investment Policy Statement Review and Update - First Reading

Per the Board Investment Policy Statement (IPS), the Board's IPS is to be formally reviewed at least every four years. However, the Commissioner has chosen to review the IPS on an annual basis to ensure it remains relevant with continued asset growth.

At the October 25, 2018, Board meeting a first reading of proposed IPS changes occurred; however, the Board did not have an opportunity for a second reading. Therefore, the Board will have the opportunity to review the 2018 recommended changes in addition to the 2019 recommended changes. The majority of the proposed changes to the IPS are to address outdated language and modify the IPS based upon changes the Board has made over the last year.

The substantive changes from 2018 include the following:

- Securities Litigation (page 10): In August of 2018, the Board directed the Commissioner to
  contract with Financial Recovery Technologies (FRT), a securities litigation monitoring and
  claims filing services firm. The Commissioner and staff are in the process of finalizing a
  contract with FRT. Over the next year FRT will work with the Commissioner and staff to update
  the Board's current securities litigation program and policies to more actively engage in
  securities litigation monitoring.
- **Distribution Policy (page 12-13):** By law, distributions from the Common Schools Trust Fund occur from August through April of each school year. In the past lower amounts were paid out early in the year and higher amounts were paid out later in the year; this was an attempt to match distributions with income as it was earned. Starting in fiscal year 2018, at OMB's request, distributions are being made in approximately equal amounts each month.
- Capitol Building Fund Strategic Asset Allocation (page 22): When the first IPS was adopted, in August 2015, the Board adopted investment guidelines for the Capitol Building Fund. At that time, the Commissioner was of the belief that the Capitol Grounds Planning Commission (CGPC) had also adopted those guidelines, when in fact, the guidelines had been presented to the Commission, but were never formally adopted. This change corrects the policy to state that the Board, not the Commission, has adopted the guidelines.

The substantive changes for 2019 include the following:

• Strategic Asset Allocation Target (page 14): The IPS was updated to include the revised asset allocation targets that were adopted by the Board on May 30, 2019, as a result of the termination of Westwood Holdings Group.

- Policy Benchmark for the Permanent Trust Funds (page 16): The policy benchmark for the permanent trusts funds was updated to reflect the new target allocation adopted by the Board on May 30, 2019. In addition, the benchmark used to measure fixed income performance was changed to the Barclays US Universal Index, from the previously blended benchmark. This change more closely aligns the target benchmark for fixed income portion of the portfolio with the current generally US focus of the fixed income portfolio.
- National Statistical Ratings Organization (NSRO) (page 17): The definition of a national ratings agency eligible to rate collateralized obligations was expanded to include any NSROs registered with the SEC, not just Moody's and Standard and Poor's.

Investment Policy Statement (redline version) attachment was provided at the board meeting and is available upon request.

#### **Quarterly Investment Reports – 2nd Quarter 2019**

Marcia Beard from RVK will review the performance of the Board investment program for the period ending June 30, 2019. While here Marcia will also provide the Board some insight as to the performance of the UBS Trumbull Property Fund and also provide some perspective on the current inverted yield curve.

The first report to be reviewed is prepared by RVK to enable the Board to monitor and evaluate the collective performance of the permanent trusts' investments and the performance of individual managers within the program. In order to provide an overview of the program and highlight critical information, an executive summary has been incorporated into the Board report (Attachment 1). A more comprehensive, detailed report is also available.

Next RVK will provide an update on the real estate market as a whole, as well as insight into the downward revaluation of retail assets in the UBS Trumbull Property Fund, which resulted in a negative return for the quarter (-3.69%).

Recently, the news had been dominated by the yield curve inversion and how it has been a strong predictor of recessions in the past. Following the discussion on real estate, Marcia will share with the Board recent research undertaken by RVK specifically regarding the yield curve inversion

The second performance related document RVK will touch on outlines the performance of the Ultra-Short portfolio in which the Strategic Investment and Improvements Fund, the Coal Development Trust Fund and the Capitol Building Fund are invested (Attachment 2). The normal report prepared by staff for these funds could not be prepared in a timely manner due to a delay in fiscal yearend report processing.

RVK Permanent Trust Fund Performance Analysis Report, UBS Trumbull Property Fund Performance Update, Investment Perspectives – What to Know About Yield Curve Inversion,

RVK Ultra-short Performance Report, Attachments were provided at the board meeting and are available upon request.

#### REPORTS

Report of Easements Issued by Land Commissioner 06/20/2019 to 08/20/2019

**Granted to: PEARL TOWNSHIP, BEACH-ND**For the Purpose of: Easement-Amend: Road Right-of-Way

Right-of-Way Number: RW0008351

Trust: A - Common Schools

Legal Description: GOL-143-104-16-NE4, SE4

Granted to: XTO HOLDINGS, LLC, SPRING-TX

For the Purpose of: Easement: Well-Directional Wellsite Location

Right-of-Way Number: RW0008375

Trust: A - Common Schools Legal Description: DUN-148-96-36-SW4

Granted to: NORTHEAST REGIONAL WATER DISTRICT, CAVALIER-ND

For the Purpose of: Easement: Pipeline-Potable Water Pipeline

Right-of-Way Number: RW0008425

Trust: U – University Of ND

I – ND Industrial SchoolM – School of Mines

Legal Description: TOW-163-65-6-SE4, TOW-163-65-7- NE4, LOT 4

Granted to: WHITING OIL AND GAS CORPORATION, DENVER-CO

For the Purpose of: Easement-Amend: Pipeline-Gas Gathering Pipeline

Right-of-Way Number: RW0008434

Trust: A - Common Schools Legal Description: MOU-155-92-36-SW4

Granted to: WHITING OIL AND GAS CORPORATION, DENVER-CO

For the Purpose of: Easement-Amend: Pipeline-Gas Gathering Pipeline

Right-of-Way Number: RW0008435

Trust: A - Common Schools Legal Description: MOU-155-92-36-SW4

Granted to: HESS NORTH DAKOTA IPELINES, LLC, HOUSTON-TX

For the Purpose of: Easement: Pipeline-Multiple Pipelines & Communication Cable

Right-of-Way Number: RW0008441

Trust: A - Common Schools Legal Description: MOU-156-92-36-SW4

Granted to: BRIDGER PIPELINE LLC, CASPER-WY

For the Purpose of: Easement: Pipeline-Oil Gathering Pipeline

Right-of-Way Number: RW0008478

Trust: A - Common Schools Legal Description: MCK-153-94-36-SW4

Granted to: RESOURCE ENERGY CAN-AM LLC, HIGHLANDS RANCH-CO

For the Purpose of: Permit: Road-Access Road

Right-of-Way Number: RW0008524

Trust: A - Common Schools

Legal Description: DIV-164-101-36-SE4, SW4

Granted to: HIGHLINE WATER LLC, WILLISTON-ND

For the Purpose of: Permit: Temporary Water Layflat Line

Right-of-Way Number: RW0008528

Trust: A - Common Schools
Legal Description: DIV-160-96-36-SE4, SW4

Granted to: ANDEAVOR FIELD SERVICES LLC, SAN ANTONIO-TX

For the Purpose of: Easement-Amend: Pipeline-Oil Gathering Pipeline

Right-of-Way Number: RW0008529

Trust: A - Common Schools

Legal Description: MCK-150-97-36-SE4, SW4

Granted to: AMES SAVAGE WATER SOLUTIONS LLC, WILLISTON-ND

For the Purpose of: Permit: Temporary Water Layflat Line

Right-of-Way Number: RW0008530

Trust: C – Capital Building

A – Common Schools

Legal Description: MOU-155-94-28-SE4

MOU-155-94-32-NE4 MOU-155-94-36-NW4

Granted to: MINNESOTA ZOO, APPLE VALLEY-MN

For the Purpose of: Letter of Permission: Access to School Land

Right-of-Way Number: RW0008534

Trust: A - Common Schools Legal Description: MCK-153-94-16-ALL

Granted to: HERMAN ENERGY SERVICES, LLC, HALLIDAY-ND

For the Purpose of: Permit: Temporary Water Layflat Line

Right-of-Way Number: RW0008539

Trust: A - Common Schools

Legal Description: MOU-153-92-16-NE4, NW4

Granted to: TRAVIS MEIER, TUTTLE-ND

For the Purpose of: Letter of Permission: Access to School Land

Right-of-Way Number: RW0008540 Trust: Y - Mayville

Legal Description: SHE-145-76-21-NE4

Granted to: CATES EARTH SCIENCE TECHNOLOGIES INC, BISMARCK- ND

For the Purpose of: Permit: Temporary Water Layflat Line

Right-of-Way Number: RW0008543

Trust: A - Common Schools

Legal Description: MOU-151-92-36-W2NE4SW4, NW4SW4, S2SW4

Granted to: ND ENERGY SERVICES INC, DICKINSON-ND

For the Purpose of: Permit: Temporary Water Layflat Line

Right-of-Way Number: RW0008553

Trust: A - Common Schools Legal Description: DUN-144-96-16-SE4

Granted to: AMERICAN ENGINEERING TESTING INC, DICKINSON-ND

For the Purpose of: Permit: Soil Testing

Right-of-Way Number: RW0008557

Trust: A - Common Schools

Legal Description: WIL-153-99-22-SW4 LESS ACRES CONDEMNED,

W2SE4 LESS ACRES CONDEMNED

Granted to: SELECT ENERGY SERVICES LLC, WILLISTON-ND

For the Purpose of: Permit: Temporary Water Layflat Line

Right-of-Way Number: RW0008560

Trust: A - Common Schools Legal Description: MCK-153-98-36-SW4

Granted to: SHASTA PATTERSON, DUNN CENTER-ND

For the Purpose of: Letter of Permission: Access to School Land

Right-of-Way Number: RW0008567

Trust: A - Common Schools Legal Description: DUN-147-94-36-SW4

Granted to: ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT, PORTLAND-OR

For the Purpose of: Permit: Planning & Preconstruction Survey

Right-of-Way Number: RW0008568

Trust: A - Common Schools

Legal Description: N/A

Granted to: ENCOMPASS ENERGY SERVICES, LLC, BROOMFIELD-CO

For the Purpose of: Permit: Planning & Preconstruction Survey

Right-of-Way Number: RW0008569

Trust: A - Common Schools

Legal Description: N/A

Granted to: WILDFIRE HYPERHEATERS LLC, DICKINSON-ND

For the Purpose of: Permit: Temporary Water Layflat Line

Right-of-Way Number: RW0008570

Trust: A - Common Schools Legal Description: MCK-150-98-36-SW4

#### **Summary of Oil & Gas Lease Auction**

On behalf of the Board, the Department conducted an oil and gas mineral lease auction on <a href="https://www.energynet.com">www.energynet.com</a> which concluded on August 7, 2019.

There were 694 tracts offered and 135 tracts listed received competitive bids (if the Board does not receive a competitive bid the lease is awarded to the nominator.) The highest bid per acre was \$15,776.00 for 160 net acres in Dunn County.

August 2019			
County	Mineral Acres	Total Bonus	Bonus/Acres
Billings	352.00	\$88,040.00	\$250.11
Bowman	38,485.55	\$43,756.31	\$1.14
Dunn	469.52	\$7,407,147.52	\$15,776.00

Golden Valley	13,546.10	\$14,872.55	\$1.10
McKenzie	481.46	\$701,838.85	\$1,457.73
Mountrail	80.00	\$123,280.00	\$1,541.00
Ward	5,033.09	\$15,236.09	\$3.03
GRAND TOTAL	58,447.72	\$8,394,171.32	\$143.62

There were 51 bidders registered, 27 of which submitted bids in the eight-day auction. Bidders were from 11 states (CO, GA, MN, MO, MT, ND, NV, OK, TX, WA, and WY).

A total of \$8,394,171.32 of bonus was collected from the auction.

Attachments were provided at the board meeting and are available upon request.

The Financial Position was provided to the Board and is available at the Department upon request.

#### INVESTMENTS

## **Investment Updates**

#### **Asset allocation**

The table below shows the status of the permanent trusts' asset allocation as of July 31, 2019. The figures provided are unaudited.

Account/Accot Class	Long-Term Asset Allocation	7/31/19 Actual	7/31/19 Actual	7/31/19
Account/Asset Class		Allocation \$	Allocation %	% Diff.
Large Cap US Equity	14.5%	\$ 712,701,536	14.7%	0.2%
Mid/Small Cap US Equity	4.0%	\$ 196,734,940	4.1%	0.1%
International Equity	14.5%	\$ 699,780,741	14.4%	-0.1%
Emerging Market Equity	4.0%	\$ 194,093,799	4.0%	0.0%
Total Equities	37.0%	\$ 1,803,311,016	37.2%	0.2%
Core Fixed Income	13.8%	\$ 759,760,569	15.7%	1.9%
Non-Core Fixed Income	9.2%	\$ 359,859,024	7.4%	-1.8%
Total Fixed Income	23.0%	\$ 1,119,619,593	23.1%	0.1%
Total Absolute Return	15.0%	\$ 721,741,494	14.9%	-0.1%
Commodities	3.0%	\$ 151,063,864	3.1%	0.1%
MLPs	3.0%	\$ 144,121,928	3.0%	0.0%
TIPS	2.0%	\$ 96,580,025	2.0%	0.0%
Natural Resource Equities	2.0%	\$ 96,480,753	2.0%	0.0%
Total Inflation Strategies	10.0%	\$ 488,246,570	10.1%	0.1%
Core Real Estate	8.0%	\$ 387,779,390	8.0%	0.0%
Core Plus Real Estate	7.0%	\$ 330,698,622	6.8%	-0.2%
Total Real Estate	15.0%	\$ 718,478,012	14.8%	-0.2%
Total Asset	100.0%	\$ 4,851,396,685	100.0%	

# Angelo Gordon (\$70.24 million, 1.5% of PTF assets) Direct Lending Fund

The Angelo Gordon Direct Lending Fund III portfolio was initially funded in late-August 2018. To date, a total of \$69.75 million dollars has been transferred to the fund. An \$11.25 million capital call was funded on July 29, 2019.

To date \$69.75 million has been transferred to the fund out of a total commitment of \$150 million; this represents 46.5% of the total commitment to the fund. According to Angelo Gordon, the Board's commitment should be fully drawn by late-2020.

# Westwood Holdings Group (\$175,964, 0% of PTF assets) Absolute Return

In May 2019, the Board voted to terminate Westwood Holdings Group and reallocate those funds to other existing managers. The Commissioner contracted with State Street Bank to transition the assets of the existing portfolio. The transition went smoothly with the reallocation completely effected as of July 1, 2019. The residual cash and accruals in the account will be cleaned up over the next few months.

The long-term target allocations shown above now reflect the new asset allocation as approved by the Board last May 2019.

## **Upcoming Investment Manager Meetings**

There are no upcoming meetings scheduled with Investment Managers.

#### LITIGATION

The Commissioner recommends the Board consider entering executive session for consultation with legal counsel regarding pending and potential litigation. Executive session began at 9:38 AM.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

Under the authority of North Dakota Century Code Sections 44-04-19.1 and 44-04-19.2, the Board close the meeting to the public and go into executive session for purposes of attorney consultation relating to:

- Whiting Oil and Gas Corporation Civ. No. 27-2016-CV-00040 pg. 92
- Newfield Exploration Company et al Civ. No. 27-2018-CV-00143 pg. 94
- DW Slate pg. 96
- Northwest Landowners Association Civ. No. 05-2019-CV-00085 pg. 97
- Paul Sorum et al. Civ. No. 09-2018-CV-00089 pg. 98

Action Record	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Absent
Secretary Jaeger			X		
Superintendent Baesler			Х		
Treasurer Schmidt		X	Х		
Attorney General Stenehjem	Х		Х		
Governor Burgum			Х		

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Members Present:** 

Doug Burgum Governor

Alvin A. Jaeger Secretary of State Wayne Stenehjem Attorney General

Kirsten Baesler Superintendent of Public Instruction

Kelly Schmidt State Treasurer

# **Department of Trust Lands Personnel present:**

Jodi SmithCommissionerKristie McCuskerParalegalCatelin NewellOffice Manager

Kate Schirado Administrative Assistant Allie Nagel Land Professional

**Guests in Attendance:** 

Reice Haase Governor's Office

Dave Garner Attorney General's Office

Mark Hanson Nilles Law Office

The executive session adjourned at 11:00 AM and the Board returned to open session and the public was invited to return to the meeting. During the executive session, the Board was provided information regarding the Continental Interpleader and Newfield litigation.

#### ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 AM.

Doug Burgum, Chairman Board of University and School Lands

Jodi Smith, Secretary Board of University and School Lands